

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 14038 071524Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20 IGA-02

AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /124 W

----- 033698

O R 071229Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

SECSTATE WASHDC 6384

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14038

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDTION TAGS AND SUBJ)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, TH, CB

SUBJECT: RICE FOR CAMBODIA

REF: A. PHOM PENH 9419, B. PHNOM PENH 9244, C. BANGKOK 13876

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH KHMER EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 7 AND 7 ON FORTHCOMING VISIT GKR OFFICIALS. COUNSELOR ENG OF KHMER EMBASSY TOLD ECON/CML COUNSELOR SEPTEMBER 7 THAT HE HAD CONTACTED PROTOCOL OFFICE MFA TO REQUEST APPOINTMENTS WITH PM, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE. STATED HE HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTACT BIRGO (COL. NARONG) AND WOULD DEFER ACTION ON THIS ASPECT UNTIL FM BORET ARRIVES BANGKO. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE CONFIRMED IN DISCUSSION WITH DCM BY KHMER AMBASSADOR WHO SAID HE THOUGH "INFORMAL" CALL ON NARONG WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

2. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED VISIT WITH PRIMIN THIS MORNING, AND DCM WENT OVER GROUND WITH DEPUTY FM CHARTCHAI. BOTH INDICATED FULL AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE OF VISIT. MINISTER OF COMMERCE PRASIT WILL BE LEAVING FOR TOKYO MTN MEETINGS SO MEETING WITH HIM NOT POSSIBLE, BUT DEPUTY MINISTER OSOT KOSIN WILL ACT IN HIS ABSENCE. WE HAVE OFFERED TO BE OF CONTINUING ASSISTANCE TO KHMER AMBASSADOR IF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 14038 071524Z

REQUIRED.

3. TO ENSURE WE AND RTG MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF VISIT, WOULD APPRECIATE ASSESSMENT OF ROLE ANTICIPATED FOR LY KIM HENG. FOR EXAMPLE, WILL HE BE AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR INCREMENTS OF THE 25,000 TONS RICE AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE BY RTG? WILL HE BE ABLE TO RESOLVE REMAINING ISSUES OF LETTER OF CREDIT AND SHIPPING FOR SECOND 5,000 TONS RICE THAT HAS NOT YET LEFT THAILAND?

4. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT KHMER DELEGATION BE MADE AWARE DIRECTLY OF CONTINUING RIVALRY BETWEEN MIN OF COMMERCE AND COL. NARONG'S OFFICE IN BIFGO ON SUBJECT RICE GENERALLY AND RICE EXPORTS IN PARTICULAR. BANGKOK'S RECENT TELEGRAMS HAVE PROVIDED DETAILS. RTG OFFICIALS INDICATE NO RETREAT FROM COMMITMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY THE 25,000 TONS. ONE THING BOTHERING THAI LEADERS IS CONCERN THAT RICE MAY FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS. WE HAVE REASSURED THEM ON THIS AND SUGGEST KHMER DELEGATION BE PREPARED TO DO SO ALSO. BELIEVE KHMER WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO ENSURE THAT REPRESENTATION FROM GROUP ALSO CALLS ON COL. NARONG AND SOLICITS HIS HELP.
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